

Serial No. 10/597,377

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached replacement sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1-2.

In Fig. 1, a legend “Prior Art” has been added.

In Fig. 2, a legend “Prior Art” has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the present application, and respectfully request reconsideration in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

The Abstract has been placed in compliance with commonly accepted US patent practice. FIGs. 1-2 have been revised per the Examiner's request. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The **drawing objection** is believed overcome in view of the above amendments.

The *35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejection of claim 10* is traversed, because the scope of claim 10 is clear and ascertainable to a person of ordinary skill in the art. The Office is of the opinion that the wording "an enlarged section is connected by means of a truncated portion to the remainder of the bore of the plug guide" is unclear and fails to invoke *35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph*.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claim wording at issue was not intended to invoke *35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph*.

Applicants further submit that the clause "by means of" has the *plain* meaning of "through the use of."¹ Thus, a person of ordinary skill in the art, interpreting the claim wording at issue using the plain meaning above, would clearly understand the claim scope as requiring "an enlarged section [to be] connected [through the use of] a truncated portion to the remainder of the bore of the plug guide," i.e., the enlarged section is connected via the truncated portion to the remainder of the bore. The person of ordinary skill in the art would therefore find claim 10 definite under *35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph*.

¹ See, for example, Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. 2010. Merriam-Webster Online. 3 March 2010.

Withdrawal of the *35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph* rejection of claim 10 is now believed appropriate and therefore respectfully requested.

The *35 U.S.C. 102(b)* rejection of all pending claims as being anticipated by *Wywialowski* is respectfully traversed, because the reference is not prior art to the present invention.

It should be noted that the instant application is the US national phase of PCT/IB2005/000162 and is entitled to the PCT filing date (January 21, 2005) as its US filing date. This US/PCT date predates the *Wywialowski* publication date (November 10, 2005). Therefore, *Wywialowski* cannot be applied under *35 U.S.C. 102(b)* as indicated in the Office Action. For this reason alone, the *35 U.S.C. 102(b)* rejection raised in the Office Action is erroneous and should be withdrawn.

It is further noted that the earliest reference date, i.e., the *35 U.S.C. 102(e)* reference date, of *Wywialowski* (i.e., May 4, 2004) postdates the priority date of the instant application (i.e., January 23, 2004). To disqualify *Wywialowski* under *35 U.S.C. 102(e)*, Applicants hereby perfect the priority claim in the instant application by submitting herewith

- **A sworn English translation of the priority document.**

A certified copy of the priority document has been received in the USPTO from the International Bureau as kindly indicated by the Examiner in the summary page of the Office Action.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the priority claim in the instant application has been perfected. *Wywialowski* should be disqualified as non-prior art and the art rejection relying on *Wywialowski* should also be withdrawn.

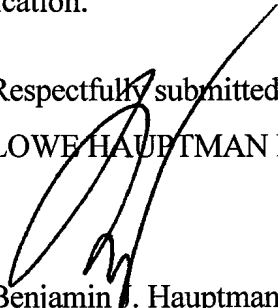
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

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The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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